

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please amend the title at page 1, line 1 of the specification as follows.

~~Guanidine carbonate-containing silica sol~~ SILICA GEL COMPRISING GUANIDINE  
CARBONATE

Please insert the following between lines 1 and 4 on page 1 of the specification.

--FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following at line 6 on page 1 of the specification.

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following at line 4 on page 4 of the specification.

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following between lines 14 and 16 on page 4 of the specification.

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a representative transmission electron micrograph of a silica gel according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a graphical representation of an IR spectrum of a silica gel according to the present invention; and

Figure 3 is a graphical representation of an IR spectrum of a comparative silica gel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--